

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A workpiece management system for storing substantially flat workpieces, comprising:

Ε, a load port, ~~said load port being capable of supporting~~ for supporting a container that has having a container door removably coupled to a container shell and adapted to store workpieces, said load port also for ~~and separating the said~~ container door from the said container shell in order to provide access to the workpieces located within the container;

a stocker having a an isolated storage area with rotatable shelves ~~isolated from the ambient environment~~, said ~~stocker~~ rotatable shelves adapted to store each workpiece after the workpiece has been removed from said container in a substantially vertical orientation ~~in said storage area after the workpiece has been removed from the container~~; and

a workpiece transfer mechanism for transferring each workpiece between the container and said isolated storage area.

2. ~~(Cancel)~~

3. (Currently Amended) The workpiece management system according to claim 1, wherein the workpiece management system may include ~~between one and six~~ or more of said stockers.

4-5. ~~(Cancel)~~

6. (Previously Amended) The workpiece management system according to claim 1, wherein said stocker may be stored remotely from the workpiece management system.

7. (Currently Amended) The workpiece management system according to claim 1, wherein said stocker may be used for bulk transport of ~~reticles~~ workpieces away from the workpiece management system.

8. (Currently Amended) A reticle management system for storing individual reticles after the reticles have been removed from a SMIF pod, the SMIF pod having a pod door that is removably coupled to a pod shell, the system comprising:

ε, 1 a load port assembly, said load port assembly being capable of supporting the SMIF pod and separating the pod door from the pod shell to provide access to the reticles stored within the SMIF pod;

a reticle stocker adapted to store each of the reticles once the reticle has been removed from the SMIF pod, said reticle stocker including:

a rotatable central shaft;

a plurality of annular carousels coaxially aligned with and secured to said rotatable central shaft, each one of said plurality of annular carousels having multiple substantially radially oriented slots extending outward from said rotatable central shaft such that each said slot stores an individual reticle in a substantially vertical orientation;

a fan filter unit adapted to circulate clean air by the reticles seated in each said slot; and

a reticle transfer mechanism for transferring reticles between said slots and ~~between said slots and~~ the SMIF pod.

9-11. (Previously Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) A reticle management system, comprising:

a reticle sorter; and

at least one bare reticle stocker for storing bare reticles and supplying bare reticles to said reticle sorter, the reticle management system operating with a variable number of bare reticle stockers.

13. (Withdrawn) A reticle management system, comprising:

a reticle sorter; and

at least closed container reticle stocker for storing closed reticle containers and supplying bare reticles to said reticle sorter, the reticle management system operating with a variable number of closed container reticle stockers.

14. (Withdrawn) A reticle management systems, comprising:

a reticle sorter; and

at least one stocker from a group consisting of stockers comprising a bare reticle stocker and a closed container reticle stocker, said reticle sorter capable of being configured to operate with said bare reticle stocker or said closed container reticle stocker or both said bare reticle stocker and said closed container reticle stocker.
